

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

Published every evening, Sunday excepted, by the Tonopah Bonanza Printing Co., Incorporated.

W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

Terms of Subscription, by Mail for Daily Bonanza
 One Year \$12.00 One Week \$0.25
 Six Months \$7.00 One Month \$0.10
 Three Months \$3.50
 Delivered by Carrier \$1.50 per Month

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Entered at the postoffice at Tonopah as second class matter
 Official Paper for County of Nye and Town of Tonopah

FUSSING OVER A PLATFORM

When one reads about the Democratic national convention spending a whole week arguing over the wording of a platform the thought naturally occurs that the instrument of so much mental and physical exasperation contains something solemn and binding, something where the hairsplitting definition of positive pledges implies a holy covenant which will guide the party throughout the perplexities of the campaign. For five days the Democratic leaders have wrangled, argued and fussed over the exact wording of the articles of faith which are supposed to be a sort of dogma for the faithful followers of the Wilson administration. This always has been the accepted view of a platform binding on a party and its adherents until the final coming of the votes deciding the way the electors choose to go. From precedent this is a view which cannot be accepted as binding on the party now in session at San Francisco for every pledge of the Democrats adopted at the last two conventions have been made only to be broken. They have been given out as bait to catch the votes of the unwary and thoughtless citizenry who still retain the conviction that party platforms were more sacred in the observance than in the breach. As a recent writer moved to pity by the incessant wrangles of the leaders in San Francisco says, the platform is a piece of tinkering spread over liberal ground like madasses beneath flies. It is certain that in neither of his campaigns has President Wilson been governed or motivated by any disposition to be controlled by the commitments of his party for he was first to break the pledges given therein without offering even the substance of an apology. He has declined to be bound by the promises of his people represented by the delegates at the party convention and taken every opportunity to show his disregard for the planning of the platform on which he made two campaigns. The two tall planks of the platform of 1912 was first to be splintered when Wilson rejected the stipulation that the Panamanian canal should be open to all vessels of American register while the ships of other nations should be compelled to pay for use of the canal built with American money and finished by the genius of American engineers. Great Britain was given equal preference with the American shipping and the value of the Transisthmian passage of a national asset was neutralized. Another plank that was shattered was the one reading:

"We favor a single presidential term and to that end urge the adoption of an amendment to the constitution making the president of the United States ineligible to reelection and we pledge the candidate of this convention to this principle."

In view of the fact that Wilson refuses to come out with a definite statement that he is not a candidate for a third term the utterances of previous Democratic conventions are simply meaningless and were written simply for the purpose of catching votes. The same may be said of the dry plank, the equivalent league of nations and the refusal of the party to come out squarely for the right of self-determination for self-determination which he so strenuously advocated at Versailles.

IMPERIALISM FOR MISSOURI.

Royalty enthroned at the White House has been used to punish citizens of Missouri who dared send to the convention a man of their choice whose only fault was that he differed from the presidential view of the league of nations covenant. Senator James A. Reed was thrust into a convention, to which he was rightfully elected solely because he had the audacity as a Senator of the United States, to rebuke the administration and to differ most strenuously with it upon its attitude in relation to the covenant. The delegate from Reed's Missouri district who was given a seat when Reed was refused his protest strongly against the outrage. The alternate to Reed had already given Reed his proxy but the pleas of the liberal mind-set to see with the administration bulldozers.

Reed was refused his rights not because he was not a Democrat, not that he was not fairly elected to the place, not because he is not a loyal Democrat from a loyal Democratic district but only for the reason that he called in question the principles of His Imperial Majesty Woodrow Wilson, self ordained emperor of all the States of this Union.

The steam roller was trotted out again yesterday afternoon for the purpose of crushing all opposition to the administration platform by excluding all discussion or revision of the planks that appealed to the leading delegations. A modified moisture which would have pleased a majority of the convention was forced to walk the plank while the Irish question was clubbed into silence and the league of nations went through as it was written and ordered by Mr. Wilson.

Crown Prince McAdoo must be gratified with the test vote of the convention which gave him a leading position among the candidates. This goes to strengthen the belief that son in law is merely a stalking horse for father of his wife. When the psychological moment arrives there will be a stampede that will bring out in clearer colors the real motive of the man in the White House.

Liberty bonds are depreciated. They are depreciated solely for the reason that the democratic administration has refused to adopt sound plans of financing and to exercise even reasonable economy. Even since the war ended the policy of waste of the public money and property has gone to such lengths as to be little short of criminal. In little more than a year, the administration has demanded appropriations exceeding by nearly \$3,000,000,000 the sums Congress allowed. Yet in the face of the most colossal extravagance of any government since the dawn of history, the democratic regime is trying to convince the public that if kept in power

it will follow a sound financial policy, restore bonds to par and save the public's money.

Mr. Bryan held out the idea that he was going to shape the platform and exercise a big influence at Frisco. Mr. Bryan was permitted to do just as much as the administration desires of lieutenants wanted him to and no more. The president and his officeholders ran this convention and Mr. Bryan found San Francisco wasn't Baltimore.

When Senator Harding becomes President he won't go cavorting about among the crowned heads of Europe, lodging at Buckingham Palace and so on, but will attend to the hard work at his office and look after American affairs as an American official ought to do.

EASY WAY TO ESCAPE TAXES

(Correspondence Associated Press)

BERLIN, June 14.—So great is the falling off in church membership here that the Berlin Synod of the German Lutheran church has voted to take drastic measures against persons who withdraw. Reports read at a recent meeting of the synod showed that while in 1915 there were only 25 defections, the number last year reached 5,287. As many women as men withdrew, most of them being young, and the majority members of the Social Democratic party.

The synod resolved that all those withdrawing should be excluded from the privileges of the church, their children to be denied baptism and to receive confirmation instruction only on certain conditions. To make these measures effective the synod voted to introduce laws to show that the holders are bona fide church members.

Escape from church taxation is said to be the principal reason for the withdrawals. Every German citizen is assumed to be a member of the state church and is taxed on it as such. Formerly there were few withdrawals owing to the difficulties placed in the way of wishing to do so and also to the social discredit that accompanied the act. But under a new law all a person has to do is to appear before a local official and state his desire

MAKING SAFE PUBLIC MONIES

(The Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, July 3.—Government experts are emulating the "Jimmy Valentine" of the underworld at the Bureau of Standards in their effort to decide upon the type of vault to be selected for the protection of deposits in the Federal reserve bank. A number of vaults embodying in their construction the latest anti-burglar ideas have been completed and tests are now being made to determine if they are sufficiently "proof" to be entrusted with the millions of dollars which the Federal government stores in the vaults of the reserve system.

The specimen vaults are constructed with various materials guaranteed to dissipate the most potent drill power in some of the latest types of anti-burglar devices. Layers of concrete, while not fails, arranged in rows have been placed in others. A quantity of hard glass is to be tested in one vault the opinion having been expressed that this material will dull the sharpest drill, while fusing before an oxy-acetylene torch.

Dynamite and the more strenuous "saw" will be used by the government experts as well as every mechanical method yet put forward by the masked cult.

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